



Compare-and-Contrast Sample Paper

Name _____ Date _____

The title lets the reader know what two things the essay will be comparing and contrasting.

The writer explains what two things he or she will be comparing and contrasting.

The writer explains how the two things are similar.

In the conclusion, the writer shows why it is useful to know how the two things are different and alike.

Elementary School and Middle School: The Differences and Similarities

What is it like to transition from elementary to middle school? That is a question many kids ask each year. Having experienced both, I can tell you that there are plenty of similarities as well as some very big differences between the two types of schools.

Elementary schools and middle schools have many traits in common. Typically, both are open five days a week for a set number of hours each day. Students sit at desks in classrooms and are expected to listen to and learn from their teachers. There is a set time for lunch. Each day, students are given homework assignments. Students take quizzes and tests. In all of these ways, middle school should feel somewhat familiar to new students.

However, there are some big changes that new middle school students should be aware of. In elementary school, students usually stay in the same classroom with one teacher for most of the day. That is not the case in middle school, where students typically have a different teacher for each subject. Students must move to a different classroom for each subject too. Since there is not one classroom in which to store supplies, middle schools often provide students with lockers. For many kids, getting a locker is a welcome rite of passage.

Making the move from elementary school to middle school may seem scary, but knowing what to expect can really help. Elementary school provides kids with the experiences they need to be ready for middle school. Even though moving on means adjusting to a new environment, some things, including many of the classmates who accompany you, will remain the same.

The first sentence grabs the reader's attention with a question.

The topic sentence lets the reader know that this paragraph is about what the two things have in common.

The writer explains how the two things are different.

The writer also adds new, related information.